

Over the last few months all Officers of the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., Bharat Electronics, HMT, Indian Telephone Industries and Hindustan Machine Tools, situated in Bangalore and represented by the Officers' Association, representing 10,000 officers have been urging, appealing, pleading and praying for their reasonable pay revision which is already unduly delayed, by way of clearing alarming anomalies as compared to the pay scales of workers in public sector concerns, which has resulted in a loss of as much as Rs. 300 to 400 in their salaries per month.

Their appeals have fallen on deaf ears and resulted instead in undue harassment. For instance, the Managing Director of the Bangalore complex even went to the extent of refusing the usual Deepavali advance which was due for payment on 29.10.1978, to those officers who had gone on mass leave to bring their grievances to the notice of the authorities. Later he inflicted penal deduction of 4 days' salary. This has been done only in the Hindustan Aeronautics and in none of the other concerns listed above.

The latest position is most serious. Charge sheets have been issued and office-bearers of the Association suspended. This cannot help in settling the issues.

The demands of the officers are:—

1. Negotiated pay revision.
2. Restoration of facilities to the association which have been withdrawn.
3. Stoppage of harassment, victimisation and terrorisation of officers especially in the engineering division.
4. Reinstatement of officers thrown out of job during the emergency.

Labour Minister, will please note that this was during the emergency.

5. Revision of frustrating promotion policy.

6. Encouragement of indigenously designed aircraft, aeroengines and accessories to save the nation from dependence on foreign countries.

I hope the Minister of Defence and other employing ministers will take urgent note of the demands of the officers' association and take the requisite steps to sit down and discuss their problems and demands with them—this is the expected action from any Government which claims to function democratically and in the interests of all sections of the people. Bureaucratic attitudes have to be abandoned once and for all.

The immediate step I would demand of the Minister is the withdrawal of suspension orders against the office-bearers of the association and the withdrawal of charge sheets against the other office-bearers and opening of talks with the Officers' Association in relation to their demands.

(v) REPORTED NON-AVAILABILITY OF SOFT COKE AND KEROSENE OIL IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

श्री बालक राम (शिमला) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आप का बहुत मगकूर हूँ कि आप ने मुझे रूल 377 के तहत हिमाचल प्रदेश और खास कर शिमला में मिट्टी के तेल और कोयले की कमी से पैदा मुश्किलों को संसद के जरिए सरकार के सामने रखने का मौका दिया है। वैसे तो कोयले और मिट्टी के तेल की तंगी का सामना सारे देश को करना पड़ रहा है लेकिन इस तंगी का सब से ज्यादा नुकसान और उस से पैदा होने वाली परेशानियाँ उन पहाड़ी इलाकों में हैं जहाँ कड़कड़ाती सर्दियाँ, बर्फीली हवाओं और बर्फ की वजह से बिना लकड़ी और कोयले के जीना मुश्किल हो जाता है। आजकल वही हालत हिमाचल प्रदेश की राजधानी शिमला में है जहाँ कोयला, मिट्टी के तेल और लकड़ी की इतनी कमी है कि तकरीबन सारे होटल बन्द हो गए हैं। इस के भलावा लोग वहाँ अपने घरों में महंगे दामों पर लकड़ी लेकर जैसे जैसे कड़कड़ाती सर्दियों के दिन काट रहे हैं।

मैं मंत्री महोदय से प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि इन हालात को मद्देनजर रखते हुए शिमला के लिए प्रायः मिट्टी के तेल पर कोयला और मिट्टी का तेल जल्दी से जल्दी पहुंचाने का इंतजाम करें और वहाँ के लोगों को सर्दियों की परेशानियों से बचाने का नेहरूवादी करें।